

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05250 071030Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /094 W

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O 071000Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2426

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5250

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: P.W. BOTHA SLAMS SWAPO AND MARXISTS

1. SEPTEMBER 7 PRESS REPORTS GAVE MAJOR COVERAGE TO A SPEECH AT THE ORANGE FREE STATE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE P.W. BOTHA. ACCORDING TO THE CITIZEN, BOTHA, SPEAKING AT A BLOEMFONTEIN PUBLIC MEETING, TOLD CONGRESS DELE-

GATE THAT THE ENEMIES OF SWA AND SOUTH AFRICA WANTED TO USE SWAPO TO CREATE A MARXIST STATE ON THE BANKS OF THE ORANGE RIVER. BOTHA WAS QUOTED AS CONTINUING, " IF THEY SUCCEED IN DOING THIS, THEY WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING CHAOS AND POVERTY TO THE HEARTLAND OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIKE THEY HAVE DONE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE."

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2. BOTHA REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THE WEST WANTED TO APPEASE SWAPO WHILE BRANDING SOUTH AFRICA, THE TRUE PEACEKEEPER IN THE TERRITORY, AS THE WRECKER OF PEACE. HE ALSO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CHARGED THAT IN UN EYES,

SWA DID NOT BELONG TO ITS INHABITANTS, BUT TO SAM NUJOMA. HE REFERRED TO THE LARGE SA INVESTMENT IN NAMIBIA AND SIAD, " NOW SAM

NUJOMA WANTS TO COME ALONG AND CLAIM THIS AS A CHRISTMAS BOX.
I CAN ONLY SAY TO NUJOMA 'THAT WILL BE THE DAY'."

3. EARLY IN THE SPEECH BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID A THIRD WORLD WAR HAD
ALREADY STARTED AND THAT, ACCORDING TO THE DIE TRANSVALER ACCOUNT,
THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKING MARXIST INTENT TO ABSORB SOUTHERN AND
SOUTH AFRICA. DIE TRANSVALER QUOTES HIM AS DESCRIBING THE MARXIST
PLAN AS " AN ATTEMPT FROM OUTSIDE TO IMPOSE A CERTAIN WILL ON
SOUTH AFRICA, TO GET INTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THIS ONSLAUGHT, AND
TO DEPRIVE SOUTH AFRICA OF ITS SELF RESPECT."

4. REFERRING TO THE WALDHEIM PROPOSALS ON UN TROOP LEVELS
IN NAMIBIA, BOTHA WAS QUOTED AT LENGTH: " IF THIS IS ACCEPTED, IT
WILL MEAN A TOTAL TAKEOVER BY THE UNITED NATIONS OF SWA. WE ARE
DETERMINED NOT TO HAND SWA OVER TO CHAOS AND MARXISM. WE WILL
FIGHT THE CRUEL GODLESS TERRORISM AS EVIDENCED BY THE SLAUGHTER OF
INNOCENT PEOPLE IN RHODESIA BY WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS COMING
FROM THE POWERS OF HELL."

5. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S SPEECH WAS DESCRIBED BY THE
RAND DAILY MAIL AS " THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW A SWAPO TAKEOVER IN SWA". DIE
TRANSVALER CALLED THE SPEECH A STRONG WARNING THAT " SOUTH
AFRICA IS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH THE WEST AND
THE UN IF THAT MEANS HANDING OVER THE TERRITORY TO THE
TERRORISTS."
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